

Written Testimony of Veronica Bonilla-Lopez of Del Galdo Law Group, LLC (Attorneys for the Town of Cicero)

I appear in my official capacity as one of the attorneys who represents the Town of Cicero and as a proponent of the redistricting map. The intent of these maps as proposed is to increase the potential that a Latino/a/x will be elected to judgeship. The importance of this is significant. As a Latina lawyer I can attest that there were not many Latinos who were in attendance at my law school and even less Latino judges on the bench when I first started out. My career began as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney advocating for victims of crimes. I prosecuted an array of misdemeanors, from dui, theft to domestic violence cases. I have worked for Del Galdo Law Group for over a decade. I handle many Cicero cases and know Cicero to highly Latino populated. Furthermore, in my position at Del Galdo Law Group, LLC at times I prosecute before circuit judges local ordinance violations from Cicero. Judges as triers of fact draw from their experience and common sense in making their rulings whether it be on Civil, Criminal or Quasi Criminal matters. It would benefit the judicial system to have judges who know and understand the culture and the community from which they are elected. Not to mention, paving the way for younger Latino lawyers to have some opportunity and aspirations to becoming a judge in the future as the need is there. As such, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak on this matter and hope that you sincerely consider voting in favor of the map.